

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 11 is added and claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A portable handheld edge cutter for edging a lawn or cutting turf, the portable handheld edge cutter comprising:

a guide tube;

5 a cutterhead connected to said guide tube;

said cutterhead including a gear housing;

said gear housing having a first side and a second side lying oppositely to said first side;

10 a first wheel rotatably journaled on said first side of said gear housing;

a cutting blade arranged at said second side of said gear housing;

said gear housing including a gearing output shaft for rotatably driving said cutting blade;

15 a second wheel disposed between said cutting blade and said gear housing; and,

said first and second wheels being rotatably journaled coaxially to said output shaft.

2. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 1, further comprising a protective hood formed on said gear housing.

3. (Currently Amended) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 2, said cutting blade having an outer blade tip defining a circular path as said cutting blade is rotatably driven; said protective hood extending approximately perpendicularly to said  
5 output ~~shaft and~~ shaft; and, said protective hood having a bent-over edge which extends outside of said circular path.

4. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 3, further comprising a splash guard fixed to said protective hood.

5. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 4, further comprising a cotter pin for holding said splash guard onto said protective hood.

6. (Currently Amended) The portable handheld edge cutter of ~~claim 1.~~ claim 1, further comprising first and second bearing sleeves formed on said gear housing for rotatably journalling said first and second wheels, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 6, wherein said ~~gear~~ gearing output shaft passes through said second bearing sleeve.

8. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 1,

wherein said gear housing has a receptacle formed thereon for receiving said guide tube therein.

9. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 1, wherein said gear housing is configured to have two housing parts.

10. (Original) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 1, said guide tube having an end facing away from said cutterhead; and, further comprising an internal combustion engine mounted on said end for driving said cutting blade via said gearing output shaft.

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11. (New) The portable handheld edge cutter of claim 1, wherein said gear housing has a bottom wall surface facing toward the lawn or cutting turf when said portable handheld edge cutter is in operational use; and, said first and second wheels have an outer diameter selected so as to cause said bottom wall to be at a distance above the lawn or cutting turf to prevent said bottom wall from being subjected to wear from contact therewith during said operational use.

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